GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
MEDICINAL PLANT BOARD
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Medicinal Plant Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to identify and develop forest areas rich in Medicinal Plants in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to develop exportable pharma products based on the medicinal plants and protect existing bio-diversity of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)
(a) & (b) The Government has initiated a proposal but no final decision has been taken.

(c) At present there is no special programme for the identification and development of forest areas rich in medicinal plants. However, those objectives are pursued from the following programme:

(1) A 100% Centrally sponsored scheme for the conservation and development of Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFP) including medicinal plants is under implementation.

(2) The network of protected areas comprising of 86 National Parks and 448 Wildlife Sanctuaries is also helping in the conservation of wild flora including medicinal plants.

(3) Under a DANIDA assisted project in-situ conservation of medicinal plants has been undertaken by establishing network of Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas.

(4) Collection of wild plant species covered under Schedule-VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or specified areas has been banned by law.

(5) Department of Family Welfare, under RCH programme is assisting State Governments to set up `Vanaspati Van` in the medicinal plants, in the denuded forest areas in various States.

(6) Department of Bio-technology has set up 4 gene Banks (at Trivendrum, Lucknow, Delhi and Jammu) to store and protect the germ plasm of various plants species found in the country.

(d) To promote the export of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani products, steps are being taken to establish quality control parameters, strengthen drug testing laboratories and complete the pharmacopoeia work. This will help standardize the products. In order to protect the existing bio-diversity of the country, the Government is formulating a legislation of bio-diversity with the broad objective of conservation and sustainable utilization of the bio-diversity and equitable sharing of benefits out of the use of biological resources.